

A MEMORIAL NOT ONLY FOR A FORMER FELLOW
KIWANIAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE UNITED
STATES, BUT FOR THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GREAT NATIONS
OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT WHICH
❧ COMPRISE OUR MEMBERSHIP ❧

Written for the Committee by

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE *on* HARDING MEMORIAL

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, VICTOR M. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

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KIWANIS, with its inspiring purpose and notable achievements, ^{what achievements?} has become an organization of enviable reputation, ^{bullshit} membership in which may well be prized as a sacred trust ^{bullshit}—a trust which affords the opportunity for unselfish service in behalf of our fellowmen. In the suggestion of a memorial to our former fellow-member, Warren G. Harding, late President of the United States, we are privileged not only to evidence our respect for the memory of an honored and honorable public servant, but to erect a monument commemorative of the peaceful relationship which has always existed between Canada and the United States, and which will prove a shrine whereat present and future generations will gather to dedicate themselves anew to the principles of honorable citizenship and the purposes of international good will.

Harding International Good- Will Memorial

AFTER a most exhaustive survey and study of the matter the Special Committee of the International Trustees for the Harding Memorial arrived at conclusions which were presented to and heartily endorsed by the International Council in December last. The Governors there assembled requested that a summary of that report be printed for distribution among the membership and in harmony therewith the committee respectfully submits the following.

The committee approached the memorial matter impressed with the thought that it was the guardian of a sacred trust, not only of money, but of purpose. An undertaking of this character demands, not only such caution as will avoid expensive mistakes, but as will accomplish the proper thing in the proper manner. The committee members have devoted much time and painstaking care to the preliminary preparations and will continue with the same caution through the completion of the undertaking. The enthusiastic reception of the suggestion to erect this memorial by the delegates at the Denver International Convention, the thoughtful consideration and co-operation vouchsafed by all with whom the committee has come in contact, greatest of which has been the helpfulness of the Vancouver Kiwanis Club, and finally the adoption both by the International Board of Trustees and the International Council of the committee recommendations without a dissenting voice, manifest a unanimity of thought and purpose which is most gratifying.

Among the many problems which awaited the committee's attention and solution may be mentioned:

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| 1st. The cost. <i>you Jews</i> | 9th. Selection of designer. |
| 2nd. Method of securing funds. | 10th. Selection of sculptor. |
| 3rd. The site. | 11th. Awarding of contract. |
| 4th. The design. | 12th. Transportation of material. |
| 5th. Excerpt from speech. | 13th. Canadian duty. |
| 6th. Co-operation of Parks Board. | 14th. Erection of memorial. |
| 7th. The material. | 15th. Maintenance. |
| 8th. Source of material. | 16th. Dedication. |

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Considering first the site, it may be stated that this was selected only after careful consideration and mature deliberation. Harding's birthplace and the Nation's capital surrendered as suggested sites to Stanley Park in the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The factors which prompted this location were that it was here where Harding delivered his last public address, that in that address he emphasized the spirit of friendship existing between Canada and the United States, that our late member was as greatly respected by the Canadians as by the Americans, that this was the only time a President of the United States ever visited Canadian soil during his term in office, that Stanley Park possesses ideal surroundings and is carefully guarded, that it is accessible and annually visited by thousands of interested tourists, and lastly because such selection betokens a bond of everlasting friendship between the two great nations of the North American continent which comprise our membership. This selection was hailed with enthusiasm by our Canadian members who had previously insisted on participating in the project regardless of location. I'll bet

The exact site chosen by the committee and accepted by the Vancouver Kiwanis Club and the City Parks Board is approximately eight hundred feet from the park entrance, which is the only part of the park where lawns, waterpools, fountains and flowerbeds are maintained. It is within fifty feet of the bandstand from which the President spoke and is directly in vision of and not more than a hundred feet from the driveway used by visitors and sightseeing automobiles. The memorial will face in such a direction as to have the light of the sun at all times.

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The selected design is a semi-circular seat with an elevated center to contain a bronze tablet with Harding's profile in bas-relief and the excerpt from his last address hereinafter quoted. In the center rear are two bronze female figures symbolizing Canada and the United States facing each other and keeping guard, not only over the man represented in the bas-relief, but also over the memorable words of international amity which are destined to go down to posterity as historically significant. Canada and the United States hold between them in one hand the olive branch of peace, in the other the shields of the two nations. Directly in front is placed a shallow pool of running water which, by reflection and motion, is designed to convey the impression of life and activity. At each end of the memorial structure is an eagle, typical and symbolic of America. The dominating motif is peace and friendship between the two nations. A low monument is the only one possible, as the tall, majestic trees in the background would minimize and belittle any attempt at vertical emphasis. The extreme length of the monument is thirty-seven feet; depth, thirteen feet, nine inches; height, ten feet, nine inches. A flower bed will add five feet on each end to the length and five feet in depth to the rear. The bronze figures are seven feet, six inches in height.

The site and design of the memorial being determined, the material of which it should be constructed arose for consideration; whether of bronze, marble, granite, or stone. The excessive cost of bronze and marble eliminated them from consideration. Costs obtained brought it within the realm of possibilities to construct the figures, tablet, olive branch and eagles of bronze, the balance of granite. The cost will approximate \$32,750.00, plus such expenses as will be attendant upon the ceremonies of dedication. The entire expense is estimated at \$36,000.00.

But one method of securing funds is available. International has no authority to take the funds from the treasury nor to levy an assessment upon districts, clubs, or members, nor has it any desire to do either. Voluntary subscriptions, therefore, must, and justly should be, the means by which money is raised. These should be small in size and popular in character. Everyone should be granted an opportunity to participate freely and cheerfully without any embarrassment because of inability to equal in amount the donation of another. As it is the purpose to erect and dedicate the memorial during the present convention year the call for subscriptions is now being made and is on the basis of fifty cents per active member. To facilitate the collection of these small amounts International will look to the club Secretaries to forward to the Chicago office the donations of their respective club members. It is known that the directors from some clubs will take from the club treasury the full amount to be donated by their members, forwarding same to International and collecting from the membership later. The enthusiasm at the International Council was so great that many present personally guaranteed a hundred per cent subscription by their clubs and two Governors personally guaranteed the same for their entire districts.

Inasmuch as contracts are now being awarded for the memorial erection, it is sincerely hoped that this urge upon the desires of the members will induce them to promptly subscribe, thus permitting the early completion of a memorial which will prove of world-wide significance, bring great credit to our organization and create an unbreakable bond of friendship between the peoples of the two great nations comprising our Kiwanis membership. This is not a committee proposal. It is a membership undertaking. The project can not be abandoned. It must be completed. The delegates assembled at the Denver International Convention accorded enthusiastic reception to the memorial purpose and both the International Board of Trustees and the District Governors, assembled in International Council, have unanimously endorsed the committee recommendations. The responsibility of expeditiously raising the necessary money reposes upon the club and district officers. As leaders of this great organization they are pledged to prosper its purposes and we rest assured in the faith that their duty will be well performed.

Neither when the thought of a memorial was conceived, nor since, has anyone evinced a desire to awe by expense, or create amazement by grandeur—the only

desire being to express in a dignified manner the dignity of former President Warren G. Harding. Neither lavishness of expenditure nor massiveness of monument has been the controlling idea in this undertaking. We wish, through skill of sculptor, to memorialize by means of monument, a regard for the dead, not an ostentation for the living. By means of this memorial structure do we desire to give appropriate and respectful expression of our recognition of the life and character of a man who was great in goodness and good in greatness. Just as the simplicity of Harding's sincerity evidenced itself in all of his personal actions and public activities, so do we desire the simplicity of our monument to impart to it a dignity which shall be interpretive of the man it memorializes.

While perpetuating the memory of our former member and national President do we also commemorate the spirit of friendly feeling between Canada and the United States. No other person could be chosen who so largely represented this international good will. Warren G. Harding probably typified as much as any other high executive the element of friendship in human relations, both national and international. If asked to describe Harding in one word his intimates would have said, "Character"—but character in all the word implies; faithfulness to wholesome ideals, honesty in all the affairs of life, integrity of purpose, friendliness in human relationships and a deeply religious spirit. His example stimulates the striving for the harmony of humanity irrespective of social station, financial rating, color, or creed. He was truly a noble-hearted, wholesome-minded, purely-purposed Kiwanian. Well may this memorial typify "Friendship" even though it be able to symbolize but the shadow of the substance as must all inanimate material. The dominant thought of the Vancouver address, delivered just prior to his demise, is expressed in the following excerpt therefrom:

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"What an object lesson of peace is shown today by our two countries to all the world. No grim-faced fortifications mark our frontiers, no huge battleships patrol our dividing waters, no stealthy spies lurk in our tranquil border hamlets. Only a scrap of paper, recording hardly more than a simple understanding, safeguards lives and properties on the Great Lakes, and only humble mile-posts mark the inviolable boundary line for thousands of miles through farm and forest.

"Our protection is in our fraternity, our armor is our faith, and the tie that binds, more firmly year by year, is ever-increasing acquaintance and comradeship through interchange of citizens; and the compact is not of perishable parchment, but of fair and honorable dealing which, God grant, shall continue for all time."

Let us hope that those words are prophetic of a fact. Anything and everything which we may do to make them so should strongly appeal to our sense of reason and the erection of a memorial for a Kiwanian President of the United States on

Canadian soil will do much in that direction. One hundred and six years of uninterrupted peace between two peoples with the longest unprotected boundary line in the world is surely a situation as agreeable as it is unique and appeals with vital vigor to human emotions. Why this pleasant peace between these two great nations? Simply because the ties which bind are grounded in the logic of the mind and the affections of the heart. I have said "unprotected" boundary line. I should have said "unfortified," for that invisible demarcation between Canada and the United States is protected by the friendly feelings of more than 115,000,000 people. And what stronger tie can there be between individuals, or nations, than the tie of friendship—friendship, that indefinable something which gives grace to life and growth to character just as genius is that indefinable something which gives the touch of real greatness to a painting, to a statue, or to literature. The amity between Canada and the United States, outstanding in the annals of human history, has been made possible because both countries have conditioned their conduct upon the fundamental foundation of a clear conception of what each owes the other and a faithful performance of those obligations.

Your committee has ever been cognizant of the responsibility reposed and has been as cautious, even in the minutest details, as though the matter were personal. In October last the writer visited Vancouver for the purpose of selecting the site and securing the approval of the Vancouver Kiwanis Club and City Parks Board to the memorial design. As an indication of the thoroughness with which the matter has been promoted, it may be said that four days were spent in Vancouver, every hour of which was placed under the tribute of some duty performed. The entire park was surveyed, all local stone and granite inspected as to color, texture, seams, durability, power to withstand the elements of nature, resistibility to salt-laden winds and quarry location; architects and sculptors were interviewed and their work inspected. By visiting the places of monument construction it was learned that two nearby quarries provide suitable granite, both substantial in texture and even in color. One is known as "Granite Island Granite," the other as "Nelson Island Granite." Each quarry is about sixty-five miles distant from Vancouver. Neither is perceptibly discolored by the salt-laden sea-breezes, or other elements of nature. The Granite Island granite is somewhat lighter in color than that of Nelson Island and it was selected.

The selection of a nearby granite eliminates the difficulties and dangers of long hauls by rail and questions of transportation across the international boundary. The granite will be carried from quarry to place of machining by barge and, when finished, transported to destination by automobile trucks.

When granite for the monument from the United States was under consideration the question of Canadian duty became a matter of grave concern, as it amounts to 15% on raw stone and 35% on finished. Vice-President J. Walter C. Taylor,

was able, after considerable effort, to obtain permission to import the necessary granite duty-free. For this service of our Vice-President and the kindly attitude of the Canadian Dominion Government Kiwanis International is deeply appreciative and your committee begs to express its acknowledgment of the courtesy and its sense of sincere gratitude.

Memorials of the character under consideration require not only the skill of the sculptor but the art of the designer. One is quite as important as the other. The art of the latter without the skill of the former would be quite as disappointing as the reverse. A combination of both is essential and designer and sculptor are seldom combined in one person. With the sculptor, as with the designer, the committee found a vast field for selection—a field so vast as to render a choice most difficult, and reliance must be somewhat reposed in recommendations. However, Vancouver possesses both designer and sculptor. The writer inspected many pieces of work performed by Twizell & Twizell, architects, and Charles Marega, sculptor, and is satisfied that in their choice no mistake has been made.

The extract from Harding's address was chosen with the conviction that it expressed, not only the regnant thought, but is of a character which will possess as much significance a century hence as at present.

Awarding the contract is a combination of business acumen and legal technique. No fear is entertained in this respect. It is purposed to clause within the contract a provision for final acceptance of the work by a competent committee of carefully chosen members.

The erection will be done in accordance with blueprints. If, as in building operations, the stones are marked as to placement, the important concern will be the preparation of a proper foundation and the use of a suitable cement. The erection of the memorial will be under the supervision of the architects, Twizell & Twizell, of Vancouver.

Placed in a park under municipal control, the maintenance of the monument and its surroundings becomes a matter over which we have no voice but one over which we need harbor no fears. Stanley Park is well cared for, and being a prized possession of the city, the upkeep of the memorial is assured. In passing, it may not be amiss to state that the Vancouver Club is one of the strongest in our organization, the members of which are closely concerned with the project, so that no misgivings need be entertained as to cautious attention to the memorial erection, or careful solicitude as to maintenance.

May the writer be pardoned for alluding to an incident which occurred during the conference with the Parks Board, which consisted of William C. Shelly, President, A. S. Wooten, Engineer, R. S. Rawlings, Superintendent, Captain W. D. Jones, Jonathan Rogers, Robert Cram and E. C. Baynes. With this Board were

assembled the members of a special committee of the Vancouver Club composed of A. E. Foreman, President, Harry Nobbs, Secretary, R. T. J. Coleman, Dean of McGill University, Dr. H. W. Riggs, Dr. W. B. Burnett, Walter Carson, J. P. Hodgson, J. G. Liston and George Wadds. The conference took place at a luncheon tendered the committee representative by the Parks Board.

Responding to the invitation to present the Kiwanis Memorial viewpoint the writer prefaced his remarks by conveying to those present the good wishes of our nation and the greetings of the American Kiwanians, following which he described the proposed memorial and paid a tribute of respect to our former President.

In responding, President Shelly, of the Parks Board, tendered an expression of Canadian good-will, described the unusual gathering of greeting of nearly 45,000 people at the time of the President's visit and, with tears in his eyes and a choke in his voice, told of receiving the announcement of the President's death by radio while on his yacht in northern waters. This unaffected display of emotion was as appealing as it was genuine. It indicated the affection felt by Canadians for our late President, evidence of which was manifested whenever his name was mentioned. President Shelly stated that even in the wilds of the far north every flag was at half mast.

After the luncheon an inspection of the site was obtained and while the writer had given assurances of a receptive attitude everyone present deferred to his suggestions. Before disbanding a motion was made and unanimously carried by the Board to accept the proposed site and memorial design, the motion being made by the most cautious, critical and conservative member of the Board. The picturesque surroundings of the park, the elaborate preparations for the luncheon, the notable gathering of men high in the affairs of local concern, the rapt attention and unusual courtesy all combined to make the moment one which will linger as long as memory lasts.

Not only the greatest possible courtesy was displayed upon this occasion, but it chanced that the Premier of Canada, the Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, C. M. G. M. P., held a reception in the city that day and a private audience was arranged for the committee representative. Mutual expressions of international felicitations and good-will were exchanged and the Premier stressed the merit of the American mission. At the same time the Hon. Dr. J. H. King, Dominion Minister of Public Works, assured the writer that at the dedication ceremonies high officials of the Dominion government would be present and it might be possible that the Premier himself would be available—an assurance later made by the Premier himself.

The writer ventures to suggest that only those present at the ceremonies of dedication will be able to adequately comprehend the significance of this most

notable achievement. Picture, if you please, the erection of a memorial for a chief executive of one country in the territory of another nation; conceive, if you can, the art of the artist and the skill of the sculptor combined in a monument symbolizing the wholesome friendship of these two peoples; visualize, if possible, the surroundings in Stanley Park—God's great temple of trees—Nature's vast sanctuary; mentally measure the immense concourse of people all attracted by the holiest emotions; place within that picture the high official representation of the Dominion of Canada and the United States of America; listen, in imagination, to the international expressions of confidence and good-will and tell me what argument may be advanced to belittle so laudable an undertaking. The most obtuse mentality as well as the most critical intelligence must acknowledge this to be an accomplishment which will appeal to the world at large and convey its message of peace and progress to generations yet unborn.

In conclusion, the writer is induced to an expression of interest on the part of the committee for the privilege of being instrumental in bringing to fulfillment such a laudable undertaking as this—the erection of a monument as a memorial, not only to a former Kiwanian President of the United States, but of the century-long harmony existing between Canada and the United States, the two nations to which our membership is limited. This pleasing peace, accentuated by Harding's last public utterance, may well induce a war-worn Europe to pause and take heed of the benefits accruing from peaceful relationships.

From time to time Kiwanis International has enjoyed the pleasing privilege of actuating undertakings which exemplify the continent-wide character of the organization and are prophetic of influences which will continue to fructify long after those now living have passed away. Such is the character of the efforts in behalf of the under-privileged child—a future citizen—and such is the character of the project of erecting a memorial to our late fellow Kiwanian, Warren Gamaliel Harding. Great as is our duty to the present, still greater is our duty to the future. Our obligation is not so much to ourselves as to the generations to follow. Posterity is heir to the present. We are the guardians of a chain of opportunities which links the present with a duty to those who are to come. That which will benefit not only the present, but future generations as well, therefore, appeals with special force to the Kiwanian spirit of service. No purpose more praiseworthy is possible of conception than that of erecting a shrine whereat present and future generations will gather, not only to recall the inspiring memory of one who was greatly respected during life and greatly revered after death, but to rededicate their own thoughts and efforts to a rehabilitation of patriotic impulses and idealistic motives.

Kiwanis is non-sectarian and non-political, and therein is lodged its strength and stability. An undertaking such as this exemplifies the fact that while Kiwanians are Protestants, or Catholics, or Jews, in their places of worship; Republicans or

Democrats, Conservatives or Liberals, in their civic lives, they are all Americans or Canadians in the true spirit of laudable endeavor. In Kiwanis they bring the fruit and flower and fragrance of their respective beliefs and the patriotism of their political preferences, leaving their individual creeds and political choices sacredly at home. In other places our members may be divided, but here they are united. In the pursuit of Kiwanis principles and in the realization of Kiwanis purposes disappear all differences of class or creed, of nature or nationality. In Kiwanis we have harmony amidst diversity, agreement amidst differences. Here we exploit and exemplify creed in deed and prayer in performance. Here we babble not of brotherhood, but live it in altruistic action. Here we recognize in every being, regardless of religious affiliation or political preference, an heir of the same destiny. Here we abolish religious denominations and political designations, realizing that the interests which unite us are greater than the differences which divide us and that humanity will be far better served by working together than by pulling asunder. In an accomplishment such as this we are giving the spirit of Kiwanis its broadest possible interpretation and its widest possible application. In such an exaltation of our mentality and spirituality do we find a richer excellence in our achievements.

Difficult as it is to fittingly depict virtues in granite, how much more difficult it is to portray them in words. Circumstance insists even though inability hesitates. With all due respect to the just deserts of others, we believe it may reasonably be asserted that a more virtuous type of American manhood than Harding's our nation has seldom produced. So idealistic were his ideas, so pure his principles, so praiseworthy his purposes, so meritorious his achievements, that, although more than a year has elapsed since his demise, the writer's inability to do justice to his merits dictates a hesitation in the effort, whereas the labor in which the committee is engaged commands the attempt.

The human race has ever sought to save from oblivion the names of those who have been great and good and convey to future generations, by means of monument, or in poetry or prose, the idealism of their lives. Although Kiwanis is but following a long established custom, its purpose loses none of its charm. The erection of this memorial will appeal, not only to the membership of Kiwanis because of our love for a fellow Kiwanian, but to the world at large because of its respect for an honorable and honored public official.

Skillful as may be the sculptured art of the granite, much greater must be the thought it symbolizes. Visualizing the ideals to be conveyed, let it portray more forcibly than tongue can tell or pen can write the ideals and aspirations of one who thought only the best and lived only what he thought. Expressive as we may make this monument, it will prove but a slight recognition of our admiration for one who combined in his character the purity of a little child with the sturdy strength of a real man. But just as the purity of his purpose and earnestness of

effort accretioned the homage of a host of his colleagues, so have they also urged this memorial structure as an appropriate tribute of a grateful people to the life he lived and the labor he wrought.

And yet, memorialize as we may, our purpose will prove of little avail unless posterity, inspired through reflective contemplation of our memorial, shall gather inspiration from the noble example of his life and character. Neither our memorial monument, nor tribute of praise, can rescue him from oblivion and enter him into the halls of immortal fame—his own character and achievements alone may do that. But we may inspire the generations to come with a veneration for the ideals he cherished and a dedication to the principles he practiced. Even though this monument may be one of the noblest methods of commemorating the dead it will have failed in its purpose unless it prove one of the best means of inspiring the living. We term this monument a memorial, but in exactness the memorial is the virtues it emphasizes. The sculptured granite is less our gift to him than a medium through which thoughts of him may continue to energize our minds, spiritualize our hearts and inspire our souls. Let us respond with alacrity to the clamorous call for a rededication of our thoughts and efforts to the lofty ideas and ideals of one who lived them in private life and practiced them in public performance.

Let us realize that the best way to honor a meritorious man is to actualize in our own activities the principles he practiced and the ideals we praise. Let the inspiration of his memory bequeath to us the legacy of his example. Let the contemplation of this memorial quicken the hope for that millennial moment when good-will may become universal; when on earth there may be happiness and helpfulness among all men. Then, and only then, will this monument be as creditable to those who erect it as to him who deserves it.

Even as you read should memory awaken its gentle message of our personal sorrow and arouse our purposes with enlarged vigor for private virtue and public integrity. Let us honor Harding, not only by memorial structure, but by a consecration of our future to an awakening and developing devotion to the ideals he ardently loved and the principles he devotedly espoused. May his heroic trust in truth be an everlasting inspiration against narrow reaction. May the power of his principles be aroused in our minds and the memorial we erect serve as a new consecration to those sublime ideals which Harding cherished in life and we revere in death. May the seeds of goodness planted by such men as Harding, the fruitage of which we are now enjoying, prove of ever-increasing productiveness in the accumulating harvests of numberless generations.

If we entertain any regret it is due to the fact that we have nothing better than a monument with which to perpetuate the memory of our former fellow member and chief national executive, Warren G. Harding; with which to commemorate

the peaceful relationship between the two great nations comprising our membership, with which to inspire future generations to an encouragement to the lofty ideals of Harding and the inspiration to imitate his noble example of Kiwanian manhood; with which to direct the attention of other nations to the benefits accruing from international friendships. Let us hope that we are building even better than we anticipate, for in such memorials philosophers have ever found a fount of wisdom, poets a source of inspiration, moralists a mine of morality. Here the public will gather to contemplate and consider the deeds of him who, by his unblemished character as a private citizen and untarnished record as a public servant, won the confidence and respect of all. Here memories will be aroused which will dedicate anew the desire to live honorably and die respected. Here the blossom of patriotism will flower afresh and spread its perfume in the human heart. And because of its erection in territory over which he did not rule, it will bind more firmly the ties between two friendly nations.

